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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 002235

SIPDIS

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD  
NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR  
DS/IP/NEA; DRL FOR A/S CRANER  
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN  
USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FFP  
CENTCOM FOR GENERAL ABIZAID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [CASC](#) [KPAL](#)

SUBJECT: THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND: #72; APRIL 16, 1700  
HOURS LOCAL -- PALESTINIAN KILLED NEAR RAMALLAH,  
DEMONSTRATIONS IN GAZA PROTEST BUSH-SHARON JOINT STATEMENT

THIS IS A JOINT MESSAGE FROM CONGEN JERUSALEM AND EMBASSY TEL  
AVIV

**1.** (SBU) Summary. In the West Bank, IDF fire killed one  
Palestinian demonstrator near Ramallah and injured nine near  
the Old City. The IDF arrested seven Palestinians including  
a 28-year-old woman carrying a bag of explosives. In Gaza,  
Hamas and Islamic Jihad organized demonstrations in support  
of Palestinian prisoners and against the Bush-Sharon  
statement. End Summary.

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West Bank  
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**2.** (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Death: The IDF killed one Palestinian April 16 during  
clashes that erupted in Bitunia, near Ramallah, after Friday  
prayers. Demonstrators protested the separation barrier and  
chanted slogans denouncing assurances given this week to  
Israel.

-- Injury: The IDF injured nine Palestinians in Hebron April  
16 when it used force to disperse demonstrators near the Old  
City.

-- Shooting: Nil.

**3.** (SBU) ARRESTS:

-- The IDF arrested a 28-year-old Palestinian woman, who was  
carrying a bag containing 25-kg of explosives, April 15 near  
Ariel settlement. The explosives reportedly were intended  
for use in a non-suicide bomb attack. The woman, Fatan  
Daraghmah, was reported to be the mother of six children.  
She lives in Liban Sharqiya village and was said to be a  
member of the Al Aqsa Martyrs, Brigades.

-- The IDF arrested seven Palestinians around the West Bank  
April 15-16.

**4.** (SBU) CURFEWS/CLOSURES:

-- Israel limited attendance at Friday prayers at Al Aqsa  
mosque to Jerusalem ID holders over the age of 45.

**5.** (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- Demonstrations were held around the West Bank April 16 to  
protest U.S. assurances given to Israel earlier in the week.  
Protests were in held Ramallah, Janin, Nablus, Bethlehem,  
Hebron, and several smaller towns and villages. The IDF used  
force to break up at least three of the rallies.

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Gaza Strip  
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**6.** (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: According to IDF sources, two Palestinians were  
injured in IDF-initiated shootings near Han Yunes on April 15.

-- Mortars/Rockets/Shootings: According to IDF sources, IDF  
troops initiated shooting and threw hand grenades west of  
Khan Yunes; Palestinians fired two anti-tank missiles near  
the Erez industrial zone and fired six mortar shells at  
various locations April 15. Palestinians fired one mortar  
shell near Netzarim village April 16.

**7.** (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS/CHECKPOINTS

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic  
artery, was closed at Netzarim junction and subject to random

closures at Abu Kholi April 16, according to UNRWA.

-- Erez Crossing was closed to Palestinian laborers but open to merchants and internationals, and the Erez industrial zone was open. At time of writing no information was available as to the number of crossings into the zone or into Israel.

-- Sufa Crossing was open for materials, but not for laborers.

-- Karni Terminal, the only Gaza Strip-GOI crossing for the import and export of goods, was open for Palestinian containerized goods, according to UNRWA.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for Palestinians.

-- The Al-Mowassi checkpoints were closed at Tel al-Sultan but open at Toufah.

18. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS

-- UNRWA reported that according to a final tally of results of the April 15 IDF incursion into Rafah, 28 houses were demolished, five were partially demolished, and 23 were damaged, on Block J. Four houses were demolished in Salam.

19. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

-- UNRWA reported that on April 16 there were demonstrations of approximately 3,000 Hamas supporters in Jobalya camp and 2,000 Islamic Jihad supporters near Beit Lahav to protest statements made at the April 14 Bush-Sharon press conference.

-- UNRWA reported that approximately 2,000 people attended a Gaza city memorial demonstration organized by Hamas in honor of martyrs and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails April 16.

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LeBaron